



Media Release - 20 September 2017
For attention Editors and Journalists

CELEBRATION OF OUR HERITAGE: THE INDIGENOUS GAMES FESTIVAL 2017

The national department of Sport and Recreation will kick start Heritage month celebrations by hosting the 12th edition of the Indigenous Games Festival - from the 24th to the 29th of September 2017 - at Seshego Sport Precinct, Polokwane.

Hosted in association with the provincial department of Sports, Arts & Culture Limpopo, the multi-cultural Indigenous Games festival kicks off with its annual Carnival Parade on the 24th of September 2017 which will start at Corner of Nelson Mandela & Chris Hani Road in Seshego and end off at Seshego stadium in Maraba Street.

The streets of Seshego will come to a stand still as groups in colourful African regalia meander the streets of Seshego in song and dance showcasing our diverse and rich cultural society represented in attire, song and dance. With the end of the parade, starts the ceremony to officiate the Opening of the Indigenous Games at Seshego Sport Precinct where 9 provinces are competing for the Indigenous Games Championship within 9 games codes i.e. Dibeke, Diketo, Drie Stokkies, Intonga, Juskei, Kgati, Kho-Kho, Morabaraba as well as Ncuva.

The 24th September Heritage Day cultural festivity culminates in a Family picnic hosted at the scenic landscape park next to Seshego Stadium - which will feature free open-air theatre performances from artists such as Limpopo's very own **Selaelo Selota and Indigenous as well as Vusi Nova and Presss**. The community is encouraged to come and celebrate their Heritage day with families and friends armed with their own picnic baskets and a blanket (to sit or recline on) whilst being entertained to SA's pride in music and comedy.

The 2017 Indigenous Games Festival week will showcase a jam-packed schedule showcasing a bouquet of activities rich in SA's culture and heritage to promote our Indigenous games, entertainment and foods so as to educate, remind and affirm our cultural pride as South Africans.

Daily the Games competition start from 08h30 till 16h30 whilst the festival part of IGF will deliver edutainment in 8 activities including an African Crafts Market, African Fashion Showcase, African Food Village, African, Kiddies Fun Village, African Traditional Kraal, African Beer Garden, African Dance - Gumboots as well as an Open Stage.

The African village will be erected from the 25th to the 28th showcasing 5 rondavels of our indigenous cultures namely: Zulu, Pedi, Tsonga, Ndebele, and Venda. School learners and the rest of the community are encouraged to visit the village where they will be educated on the indigenous values and structures which exist and enable communities to reconnect in a deep way with their cultural heritage. The highlight of these daily activations is the **African Traditional Kraal** which will showcase a mock-trial led by a chief with his lekgottha on resolving disputes as well as adjudicating family cases in ensuring peaceable relations within communities.

An African proverb or adage reminds us that "Those who are at one regarding food are at one in life". After all African celebrations are not complete without food and entertainment. The former is represented by **African Food Village** offers local vendors selling only the best African food cuisines and hosting a food competition on the 25th and the 27th. The latter showcases 3 distinct activations namely: African Gumboot Dance competition, Fashion Show competition on the 28th and an Open Stage which daily from 09h00 till 23h00 will presents local singers and dancers entertaining crowds and personifying our cultural heritage in songs and dances.

The Indigenous Games Festival, in its pursuit to provide a platform for bringing people from all different cultures together serves as a strategic tangible driver towards the realisation of NDP's 2030. The NDP 2030 mandates the need for government to drive programmes which promote social cohesion with the deliverable by 2030 which will see South Africans more conscious of the things they have in common than their differences and more accepting of people's multiple identities. As a department of Sport & Recreation we are in essence implementing and planting seeds of success towards the realisation of NDP's 2030 vision.

Honour SA's rich heritage and culture - Promote and encourage Indigenous Games Festival from 24th to 29th of September 2017.

Indigenous Games Festival: My Games, My Roots, My future.

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